



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3065/Telephone 547-7000

Charles K. Djou

Councilmember, District IV

Chair, Zoning Committee

Phone: (808) 547-7004 / Facsimile: (808) 523-4220

Email cdjou@co.honolulu.hi.us

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For More Information, Please Contact:
Councilmember Charles Djou
Phone: (808) 547-7004
(808) 478-0006

City Ethics Commission Supports Djou's Charter Amendment

Today, Honolulu City Councilmember Charles Djou received the support of the Ethics Commission to move forward with a Resolution that would authorize the Commission to impose civil fines on violators. The Resolution, which proposes an amendment to the City Charter, would grant the City's Ethics Commission the power to impose fines on City officers and employees for violations of the City's standard of conduct.

Currently, if a City official or employee were to violate the City's standards of conduct, the Ethics Commission could only recommend disciplinary action to the official or employee's appointing authority for implementation. Authorization to impose civil fines would now give the Commission an additional tool to deter unethical behavior.

Stated Councilmember Charles Djou, "The public's perception is that the City is corrupt. My hope is that by granting the Ethics Commission the power to impose fines, people will be less tempted to violate the standards of conduct, and if they choose to do so, they'll suffer the consequences. We need to make it clear that the City will not tolerate the unethical behavior that seemed to be prevalent in the last few years."

This proposed Charter Amendment is the first step in the discussion which would allow for the assessment of fines. If approved by the City Council, the voters would get to determine whether to grant the Commission the power to fine at the 2004 election.

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